



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
(Case No. 00-1312-C)

PATENT

In application of:

Kopreski

Serial No. 09/966,515

Filed: September 28, 2001

For: Method Enabling the Use of Extracellular
(RNA Extracted from Plasma or Serum to
Detect, Monitor or Evaluate Cancer

Before the Examiner:
F. Lu

Group Art Unit: 1634

#12/Amat./B
BELAY
03/05/03

RESPONSE TO THE OFFICIAL ACTION
MAILED NOVEMBER 19, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action mailed November 19, 2002, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in light of the following amendments and remarks.

AMENDMENTS

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the following claims:

1. (Amended) A method for detecting tumor-derived or tumor-associated RNA in the plasma or serum fraction of blood from a human or animal, wherein the tumor-derived or tumor-associated RNA is epidermal growth factor RNA, epidermal growth factor receptor (erb-B-1) RNA, her-2/neu RNA, c-myc RNA, heterogeneous nuclear ribonucleoprotein A2/B1 RNA or any combination thereof, the method comprising the steps of:

a) extracting mammalian total RNA from plasma or serum, wherein a fraction